



# Emmanuel News Notes

July/August, 2009

## Pastor Lookingbill ponders. . . . . water

There's water sitting in the "storm water" ponds at the Church this summer! It seems to be raining almost every day! It reminds me of Ireland last June when I was there on Sabbatical! I know Ireland is called the "emerald island," and for a good reason! "Don't go there for the weather," is what I had been told. It's a place of green, and everything seems to just grow, except perhaps tomatoes who like more sun! Even the waves on the west coast of Ireland are especially wet and wild! Is it "global warming," or just nature's way of keeping the water table up for the grass and for us to drink clean and safe water?

Summer is the time when we experience thunderstorms here in the east coast of the USA. That's one difference with the USA and Ireland: Ireland very rarely has thunderstorms! It simply doesn't get hot enough to generate those wonderful and wild spectacles in the sky. To be sure, there's danger in thunderstorms, as experienced by those young baseball players out in the field during a storm!

The weather in Ireland has changed since the last ice age, 13,000 years ago, when the whole island was covered by a glacier! Change seems to be the common thread of our lives. The warmer weather is a relief from the winter cold and inside sports we enjoy. Now is the time to get outside for baseball, for sports camps and for vacation trips. The gas prices are going up again, but the season is full of potential outdoor vistas.

Jesus and his disciples traveled quite a lot, if not far from their Galilean homes. The Gospel of Mark tells us that Jesus rather often crossed the Sea of Galilee to get to the other side! That was a way that St. Mark could tell us that Jesus was engaged with the people on both sides of the "lake," both the Romans on the east and the Jews on the west. Weather on the Sea of Galilee is also unpredictable, with the stories from the Gospels telling us about rising waves and winds! Jesus could and did "calm" the waves and the winds, displaying his relationship with God, his Abba, his father! The Psalms remind us that God has created and does enjoy the earth, the seas and the waves crashing down on the beach. We too share that joy in the waves at the beach, without staying out in the thunderstorms!

Jesus traveled to meet people, to teach people, to listen to folks about their daily cares and worries. He met men and women, children too, inviting the little ones to come to him, when all the rest of that community wanted children to be the backdrop. "No," said Jesus, for receiving the Kingdom of God as a little child is the righteous way to celebrate the gift of life from our Lord. What did he mean? It seems that Jesus had a great way of teaching us that children in their innocence and trust know more about God's will and God's way than the sophisticated adults who analyze the daily occurrence to find out what's "wrong" with that! Is it too hot, too cold, too wet, too dry, too high, too low, too hard, too easy, too far, too dangerous, too safe, too much trouble, too boring? Children tend to run and play in the world that God has given them, in the world their parents navigate with wonderful resources and endless variations. It's fun and it's "play," and it's God way of sharing Life and loving care.

So, your summer is now started, with schools on break and teachers at the beach (let the reader know who I'm talking about!). Church is still part of the plan for God's people, and Church is still the Holy place where prayers are spoken and heard, summer and winter, spring and fall. After Church the people of God "go out," just as Jesus did, to meet the world, heal the world, comfort the stricken, visit the lonely, pray with those who are in despair, to share their faith and their enthusiasm for life. We also go out into the world to share in the rich beauty of trees and sky, of ducks and geese, of water and sports, of health and restoration. It's a time for new adventures that bring us health and vitality, and show us the variety of gifts that our God is giving.

## DATES OF NOTE

- June 28-July 4 Chi Rho work camp (page 5)
- July 12 Dinner Club pot luck (page 8)
- July 17 Movie outing (page 10)
- July 21-27 Youth Gathering in New Orleans
- July 30 Young Adult gathering at Rock Bottom (page 10)
- Aug 13 Day trip to DC (page 10)
- Aug 15 Family Splash Day (page 5)
- Aug 17 Orioles game (page 5)
- Aug 19 Laser tag (page 10)
- Aug 21 Lunch at the mall (page 10)
- Aug 29 Council Retreat (page2)

## WORSHIP

Sunday 8:30 & 11:00  
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

*Continued on page 2*

So, we sing with the hymn, "Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands, robed in flowers of blooming spring . . . fair is the sunshine, fair if the moonshine, bright the sparkling stars on high . . . Beautiful Savior."

See you in Church, and out of Church among the people of God, sharing the rich blessings of our lives and our Lord!

In Christ's Service,

Jan P. Lookingbill, Pastor



It's been a rainy spring and early summer and there are some who wonder if maybe soon we'll be seeing the animals lining up, two by two. Should we be looking for gopher wood and digging out those old plans for the ark? Perhaps not, since we have been promised that once was enough for that exercise. Genesis doesn't say exactly why God promised Noah that it wouldn't happen again, but do you suppose that even he was appalled by the conditions in the ark after forty days of rain, and then even more time waiting for the waters to recede. Talk about stench!

So, instead of flooding, perhaps we're faced with cases of terminal mildew. Then, of course, there is the threat of global warming. Who would guess that Emmanuel would become a beachfront chapel?

Pastor Lookingbill quotes the hymn *Beautiful Savior* to good effect. If we sustain much more of this lovely liquid sunshine, he may be singing, *Throw out the Lifeline!*



The rains have been heavy at times, but not so heavy that the newly spread grass seed has been washed away. The fresh and delicate green shoots are up and appear to be thriving—even where eager hands didn't mean the seed to go. Not only weeds are thriving, but garden plants seem to be happy, too. The birds have been busy carrying worms and insects to hidden nests, so it is probable that the chicks are thriving as well.



Given the droughts in the western half of the country, it is unseemly to complain about the rains. It would be nice if we could share some of our bounty with the parched west. Indeed, we should be careful what we ask for, remembering our own drought of a few years ago.

## ELCA meets in Assembly

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, our parent organization, will meet in its regular triennial churchwide assembly in Minneapolis, August 17 through August 23. There will be ample opportunity for inspirational activities in addition to the major matters to be considered. Among the matters of faith, policy, polity, and justice to be addressed by this assembly are recommendations for full pulpit and altar fellowship with the United Methodist Church; the adoption of a formal statement on human sexuality; positions on ministry, on fighting malaria, on social justice for women; and amendments to the constitution and by-laws of the ELCA.

Watch for reports from the assembly—they may be found in *The Lutherann* in the September issue of News Notes, and perhaps even in the national press.



## Council Postpones Retreat, Rescheduled for August 29

The Church Council has postponed its retreat, originally scheduled for late June, to Saturday, August 29, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The retreat will be at the church and it is anticipated that the members will find themselves inspired, enlivened, enthusiastic, and home again in time for tea.

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Rev. Robert L. Lewis  
James McGee  
Katherine Burrell  
Dingwall Fleary  
Susan Drumm

## FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT...

### Greetings

It's mid June and the rains continue. The May Congregational meeting is over. Part 1 of the Metro DC Synod meeting is over. Sunday school is over. Summer is approaching.

At the Congregational meeting in May, you elected three new Council members: Annette Poston, Anna Roberts, and Diane Swenson.

Thanks to outgoing Council Members, Don Ryder, Karen Grimm and Steve Benz, for their willingness to contribute their time, energy and ideas to Emmanuel.

You heard reports about and approved the many programs of Emmanuel. In addition, Finance Committee Chair, Wayne Hunley reported on the financial picture of Emmanuel after four months. While not cause for immediate alarm- we are about 1.5% behind last year – it does raise concern about our ability to meet the compensation needs of all of our staff in 2010 and beyond.

After five months, we are now actually slightly ahead of last year. Not as far ahead as we need to be, but still encouraging news.

Compared to the Metro DC Synod, and other non-profits, we are faring well. At the Synod Assembly on May 8-9, we heard that synod income is down 15% and the budget had to be adjusted accordingly, including some staff cutbacks.

At the Metro DC Synod, five members of the congregation accompanied Pastor Lookingbill as lay representatives. They included my wife, Donna, Patti Leppert, Pastor Lewis, and Kevin Adams. Thanks to all for giving up two of the nicer days that we have experienced this spring.

Three resolutions were voted on and approved by the Synod. The first was an expression of appreciation to all of the spouses and families of rostered clergy, without whose financial support, many clergy would not be able to serve.

The second resolution called on the ELCA Churchwide Assembly to promote a greater understanding within ELCA congregations of the plight of the Palestinian people in its efforts to advocate for a just peace in the Middle East, consistent with the ELCA's Peace not Walls Strategy.

The third resolution presumed the adoption by the Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA Statement on Human Sexuality and its enabling resolutions, and called on the ELCA for additional guidance in implementing the resolutions.

The experience of representing Emmanuel at the Synod Assembly gave me an even greater appreciation of the role of the synod and the ELCA in enlarging the world of Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

Lastly, I want to echo the sentiments expressed on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to each and every one of the Sunday school teachers for sharing your time, energy, and creativity with the children of Emmanuel. You are a very important part in the lives of all of us, not just those with children in Sunday school.

Peace and Joy

Jim McGee

1920Jimmy@gmail.com



## MANNA FOOD SUMMER COLLECTION SUMMER 2009

Our giving to MANNA Food Center continues through the summer. Many of our area students in schools qualify for free or reduced-price meals (FARMS) at school. So who feeds these kids breakfast and lunch during the summer? There's not much room in their parents' budgets for extra food expenses. So, their families turn to places like the MANNA Food Center to make up the difference. Not surprisingly, MANNA gets its highest demand during June, July, and August.

That means it's time for churches like Emmanuel to step in and keep MANNA's shelves full. For that reason, we collect food in the narthex on every Sunday during the summer. We make periodic deliveries to MANNA during the summer - to keep low-income county kids (and low-income folks generally) fed.

Care to help? Please bring some items from the list below to church with you this summer as part of your offering.

### MANNA SHOPPING LIST:

**peanut butter, tuna, soup, small fruit cans/cups, individual milk boxes, oatmeal packets, tuna fish, especially in vacuum packages or 3oz cans, pudding cups, crackers packaged in a sleeve like Ritz, cereal bars that contain at least a few vitamins and protein, individual raisin boxes, microwavable containers of soup, pouches of mashed potatoes or rice that require only water.**

## What's under the veil?

Each time there is communion, the altar has a veiled group of vessels that are uncovered in preparation for communion. What is all that? Like every other profession, the clergy have their tools and each of them carries a name that often is unknown to those of us in the pew.

The collection of vessels and the cloths that are with them are generally referred to as "altar ware" or "communion ware." These usually consist of one or more cups ("chalices"), one or more plates ("patens"), a pitcher (often, but not necessarily called a "ewer"), and a storage vessel ("ciborium" or "pyx").

**Chalice.** The communion cup is usually called a chalice from the Latin *calix* meaning goblet. Since the cup often has a stem, calling it a goblet seems appropriate. From its use in church, the word has religious connotations, but it can refer to any fancy goblet (remember Danny Kaye's marvelously funny routine about "The Chalice with the Palace"). Emmanuel uses pouring chalices in that they have a small lip which makes it easier to pour wine into the individual communion cups. Many chalices are simple cups.

**Paten.** The plate which holds the communion bread is called the "paten". This word, too, traces its roots to Latin as *patina*, meaning dish or pan.

**Ewer.** Since the chalices only hold so much wine, it is often necessary to add more during the distribution. Emmanuel uses a clear glass pitcher, but some altars are equipped with handsome silver containers. Roman Catholic altars are often supplied with small glass cruets containing water and wine which the priest uses to charge the chalice.

**Ciborium.** The communion bread is contained in a covered vessel very similar to the chalice. Often altar sets have matching chalice and ciborium. The name, of course, is Latin for "drinking cup" and relates especially to the cover.

**Pyx.** A pyx is a container in which supplies of wafers for the Eucharist are kept or it may be the container in which the Eucharist is carried to the sick. The casual distinction between a ciborium and a pyx is that the ciborium usually rests upon a stem and the pyx does not. The name comes from the Latin and Greek word for "box," *pyxis*. In non-liturgical use, a pyx is a box in a mint in which specimen coins are placed to await assay.

**Cloths.** The cloths each have names, as well. The "veil" covers the vessels before and after their use at the Eucharist. The napkins which accompany the chalices are called "purificators." When drinking chalices are used, the purificator is used to wipe the lip of the chalice after each communicant. The "corporal" is the large napkin on which the altar vessels are placed.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### July

Sunday, July 5

Communion both Services  
Adult Forum @ 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, July 12

Service of the Word both services  
Dinner Club Pot Luck Dinner @ 6:00 p.m.  
In the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, July 19

Communion Early Service  
Adult Forum @ 10:00 a.m.  
Service of the Word Late Service with  
Investment of youth attending ELCA Youth Gathering

ELCA Youth Gathering, July 22-26

Sunday, July 26

Service of the Word Early Service  
Adult Forum 10:00 a.m.  
Communion Late Service

### August

Sunday, August 2

Mary Kieser, Preacher  
Communion Both Services  
Adult Forum 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, August 9

Service of the Word Both Services  
Adult Forum 10:00 a.m.

Sunday August 16

Service of the Word Both Services  
Adult Forum 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, August 23

Communion Early Service  
Adult Forum 10:00 a.m.  
Service of the Word Late Service

Saturday, August 29

Church Council Retreat  
8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sunday, August 30

Service of the Word Early Service  
Adult Forum 10:00 a.m.  
Communion Late Service

## FAMILY SPLASH DAY!

Saturday  
August 15

Water Park at Bohrer Park in Gaithersburg

Grab your swimsuit, towel, and sun-screen and join us for a day at the Water Park! Enjoy the pool, children's splash pond, and soaking up the rays. For those who like more adventure, try out the two 250 feet long water slides! The main pool is zero-depth entry, thereby accessible to all, so there is something for everyone no matter your age. Admission for ages 1-17 is \$5, for those 18 and older, it is \$6.75 (both for non-residents).

We will meet at the Water Park at Bohrer Park in Gaithersburg located at 512 S Frederick Ave (Route 355) starting at 11AM. Ice chests are allowed, so bring your lunch, cold drinks and some snacks and plan on staying all day (please do not bring glass bottles). There is also a snack bar available.

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## Let's Go to the Movies!

July 17, Friday, 11:30 a.m.

**Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince**

We are going to go to the early show at the Rio Movie Theaters located at 9811 Washingtonian Blvd. in Gaithersburg for this next installment in the Harry Potter movie series. All youth, college students, young adults, and families are invited to join us. Please bring money for your ticket and any snacks you might want to get.

This film is rated PG.

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## Take Me Out to the Ball Game . . .

August 17, Monday, 7:00 p.m.

**Orioles Game**

Everyone is invited to join us for the Orioles versus the Angels. If you would like to join us, contact Pastor Lewis by August 2 at noon so he can order tickets. Tickets will be \$25 each. Please have the ticket money to Pastor Lewis by August 10. We can either meet at the church and car-pool, or meet at the park. These arrangements will be made on August 3 with everyone who is going.

## Christian Education Notes

**Sunday - Funday**

Summer Sunday School

We have been having fun learning about Old Testament Stories and we will continue throughout the summer. We will continue the Summer Sunday School for pre-k to sixth graders on July 12 and run the program until September 6. We will meet in the Atrium at 10 a.m. each Sunday for activities, songs, Bible stories, arts & crafts and more. These classes are "stand alone" so if you miss one or two due to vacation, it will be easy to fit right in.

Christian Education News

We are continuing the new summer Sunday school class and it is going well. The children (and parents) are having a great time. The Adult Forum is also continuing throughout the summer down in the Fellowship Hall at 10 a.m.

Because several of our teachers are moving out of the area this summer, we are in need of Sunday School teachers for the 2009-2010 year. In the past we have always had a team of two or three teachers to share each class, that way the time commitment for preparing the lessons is spread out (plus the curriculum we use is light on the prep-time). Plus, if one has to be away on a Sunday, there is already someone in place. We have spots available in almost every age level.

PLEASE prayerfully consider being a part of this important ministry.

Rally Day is on September 13. We will begin in the Atrium at 10 a.m. We will also have a picnic after the second service on this day.

## Chi Rho Youth Work Camp

You will be receiving this issue of News Notes while a team of youth from Emmanuel will be joining other youth from the Metro D.C. Synod for the annual Chi Rho Work Camp in Neon, Kentucky. The work camp this year takes place June 28 - July 4, 2009. The Emmanuel Youth attending are: Cece Sullivan, James Hastings, Greg Hunley, and Eleni Stellakis - all Chi Rho Veterans. Pastor Lewis will also be joining them and will be the Chaplain for Chi Rho this year. Please keep all of the Chi Rho participants in your prayers during this week.

We are planning on a short report to the congregation before the second worship service on July 12, 2009.

## Parish Vital Records

### New Member

*Noah Matthew Phillips*, son of Mark and Kristen Phillips, grandson of Jan Phillips, by infant baptism 24 May 2009

### Wedding

*Lisa Kristine Johnson* and *Peter J. Cohen*, 6 June 2009, Indialantic, Florida

### Deaths

*Bill Allison*, 8 May 2009, relative of Mae Scanlan and family

*Spencer Davidson*, 9 June 2009, friend of Liz King and family

*Tony Yen*, 16 June 2009

### Spreading of remains

*Rose Lindner*, 24 May 2009, around the tree in the Memorial Garden

## 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering

On July 19, 2009 we will commission and bless the three adults and eleven youth who will be traveling to New Orleans for the 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering. The gathering will take place July 22 - 26, 2009. While there, they will learn how to be leaders in their church and community, learn about taking care of God's creation, and take part in an environmental service project. They will join 36,600 other youth and youth leaders in worship every evening in the Superdome.

Those who are attending are: Pastor Robert Lewis, Jennifer Lewis, Sue Hunley, Kyle Einwaechter, Jonna Rautsola, Helene Benz, James Hastings, Evelyn Lewis, Peter Murtland, Leah Freilich, Christina Hastings, Greg Hunley, Cece Sullivan and Greg Murtland. This is Emmanuel's "Away Team."

You are the "Home Team." The Away Team will keep the Home Team informed as we get ready for the Gathering and while we are there via a blog. You can access the blog by going to the church's website, [elcbethesda.org](http://elcbethesda.org), and clicking on the link in the left hand column. You can also access it directly by going to [hometeam.elcbethesda.org](http://hometeam.elcbethesda.org).

We are also asking you to keep our Away Team, and everyone else attending the Gathering, in your prayers as we prepare for this trip and while we are there.

We will report our experiences in the September issue of News Notes will have a dinner sometime in the fall to share pictures and stories.

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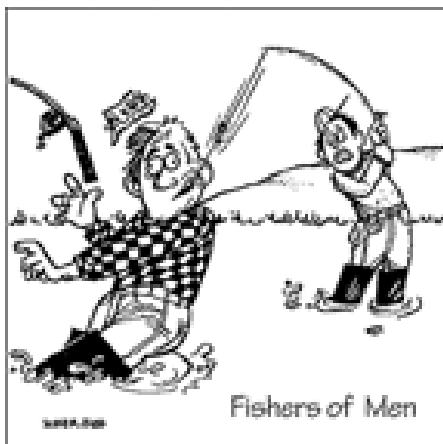
## Pot Luck Dinner Club

July 12, 2009

6 p.m.

Everyone is invited to this Dinner Club event. It is pot luck, so please bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share. The BBQ Entree and drinks will be provided.

Please either sign up in the Narthex or contact Pastor Lewis so we can make sure we order enough BBQ.



## Pastor Lewis considers..symbols

It's July, and for many of us, that means July 4<sup>th</sup>, Independence Day, which is one of those "hard to decide how to honor in church" type of holidays for me. Now, please do not misunderstand me - I love the Fourth of July with all the fireworks, the cookouts, and the flyovers at the parade. But when it comes to worship, the question for me is always about how far we should go in combining worship and patriotism.

One church where I attended actually had a brass band play "Stars and Stripes Forever" during worship on the Sunday closest to the Fourth, while the church's children paraded up and down the aisles waving American flags. That always made me a little uneasy, yet right there in our hymnal is a section called, "National Songs." I'm as patriotic as the next guy, but something about waving the flag in worship seems somehow inappropriate.

When I was in Plymouth, MA, volunteering at Zion Lutheran Church, we had the American flag and the "Christian" flag on the outer edges of the front pews. (An aside: Who came up with that flag, by the way? Was there a first-century Betsy Ross somewhere in Asia Minor? But I digress.) After one Saturday wedding, I forgot to put the flags back in place for the Sunday worship. After the service I was approached by an older gentleman who was deeply offended by the absence of the American flag. The man began the conversation with a finger pointed at my chest saying, "I was in the infantry and my son is a Ranger, and you should be honoring this country by having the flag up in the front."

Well, I'm a veteran, too (Coast Guard), and I certainly understand his passion. I salute the flag, display it in my own home, have worn it on my sleeve, proudly served my country and, even been shot at while performing my duties. I am also a military brat, having lived in base housing a good part of my childhood. Therefore, that flag is a significant symbol in my own life.

But there are places where that symbol is less important than others. It may sound heretical to some, but I have come to believe that one of those places is in the church. And the reason I bring this up is that over the five years I have been at Emmanuel, a few people have asked me why we do not have a flag in the sanctuary or to tell me about a place they visited that has a flag by the altar.

As a Boy Scout Citizenship Merit Badge counselor, I can tell you that the U.S. Flag Code, Title 36, Chapter 10, Section 175.k states, "When displayed from a staff in a church or public auditorium, the flag of the United States of America should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the clergyman's or speaker's right as he faces the audience . . ." When I examine that passage of the code, it seems to me that it is saying that in a public meeting place, the flag should have the greatest position of honor to the right of the speaker. And, in most cases, that is exactly where it should be as the prominent symbol.

However, there is another symbol of "superior prominence" that is in the Church. It is the cross, the center of focus for just about every worship space in all of Christendom.

While the flag reminds us of the sacrifice of men and women who gave their lives in defense of the United States of America and its freedoms, the cross reminds us of a Savior who gave his life for the whole world. It reminds us, too, that if we are truly following Christ, then our primary allegiance must be to God, no matter where we live. When we come into a place of worship, we are called to recognize that we are citizens of the kingdom of God, first and foremost.

I do not remember exactly what I told that ex-infantryman/proud Ranger dad that morning. But what I wish I had said was that I celebrate his son's service and respect the flag so much that I did not want to violate the Flag Code (or at least my interpretation of it). I wish I had said that we always pledge allegiance to a greater symbol first. In church, it's never independence day, because when we worship, we recognize our full dependence on God to save us. That is why the cross is the prominent symbol.

PAX,

Pastor Robert L. Lewis, Jr. +

*Editor's Note: Pr. Lewis asks where the Christian Flag came from. The Internet provides this answer: It was conceived by Charles C. Overton in Brighton Chapel, Coney Island, Brooklyn, NY in 1897. Overton, a superintendent of a Methodist Sunday School and Ralph Diffendorfer, secretary of the Methodist Young Peoples Missionary Movement, designed and began promoting the use of the flag in 1907. The flag is white with a blood-red cross on a royal blue canton. It is primarily used in Protestant churches. Its use in Lutheran churches is apparently one of local custom.*

### Candle Wax Needed for Luminaries

Leave candle stubs and similar material in a plastic bag near your church mailbox. An obliging elf will transform them into luminaries.

## Youth and Family Calendar

June 28 - July 4

### Chi Rho Work Camp

This is the Metro D.C. Synod's annual youth mission trip to Neon, Kentucky. If you are interested and have not yet signed up, contact Pastor Lewis.

July 12, Sunday, 11:00

The youth who went to the Chi Rho work camp will present a short **report** to the congregation during the second worship service.

July 12, Sunday, 6 p.m.

### Dinner Club Pot Luck

This is the final meeting of the Dinner Club until the fall. Everyone is invited to attend and bring a dish to share. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

July 17, Friday, 11:30 a.m.

### Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince

We will meet at the Rio Movie Theaters located at 9811 Washingtonian Blvd. in Gaithersburg for this next installment in the Harry Potter movie series. This film is rated PG. Everyone is invited.

July 19, Sunday, 11 a.m.

### Commissioning of Youth going to the ELCA Youth Gathering

All of the youth and adults who will be heading to New Orleans for the 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering will be commissioned and blessed during the second worship service.

July 21, Tuesday, 5:30 a.m.

Youth heading to ELCA Youth Gathering leave Those who will be flying with the group to New Orleans will need to be at Baltimore Washington International Airport no later than 5:30 a.m. to check in for our flight.

July 21 - July 27

### 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering

Please keep those at the Gathering in your prayers.

July 27, Monday, 9:30 p.m.

Those who will be flying with the group to the 2009 ELCA Gathering in New Orleans will arrive at Baltimore Washington International Airport.

July 30, Thursday 7 p.m.

### Young Adult Get Together at Rock Bottom

All Young Adults are invited to join us at Rock Bottom in Bethesda located at 7900 Norfolk Ave. RSVP to Pastor Lewis by 5 pm the day of the event - but if you forget to RSVP, please come anyway.

August 2 - 8

### Pastor Lewis at Mar-Lu-Ridge

If you have not already made plans for that week, come join

Pastor Lewis at Mar-Lu-Ridge this week. Camps are available for children and youth ages 7 to 16. See Mar-Lu-Ridge.org for more information on that week (or others) or contact Pastor Lewis.

August 13, Thursday, 10:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.

### Day Trip to Downtown D.C.

We will meet at the White Flint Metro Station and head to Union Station and have lunch there.

We will then head over to the museums as well as see an Imax movie. Bring money for the metro, lunch, snacks and Imax movie. Make sure you wear good walking shoes.

August 15, Saturday, 11:00 a.m.

### SPLASH DAY

Water Park at Bohrer Park in Gaithersburg.

Everyone is invited to come out and enjoy a day at the Water Park, and bring a friend (or more).

See page 5 in this issue for more information.

August 17, Monday, 7:00 p.m.

### Orioles Game

Everyone is invited to join us for the Orioles versus the Angels. If you would like to join us, contact Pastor Lewis by noon on August 2 so that he can order tickets. Please have the ticket money to Pastor Lewis by August 10. See page 5 for more information.

August 19, Tuesday, 1:00 p.m.

### Lunch and Laser Tag

Meet Pastor Lewis at Cici's Pizza at the Quince Orchard Shopping Center where he will treat for lunch, and then it's off to Shadow Land Laser Tag also located in the Shopping Center. Bring \$15 for two games of laser tag and some extra if you want to get a snack or drink between games.

Cici's Pizza is located at 642 Quince Orchard Road.

August 21, Friday, 1:00 p.m.

### Lunch at Montgomery Mall

Meet Pastor Lewis at the top of the escalators in the Food Court at Montgomery Mall for lunch. Lunch is on your own, but Pastor Lewis will treat everyone to ice cream after lunch.

### IMPROMPTU GET-TOGETHERS

During the summer Pastor Lewis also has impromptu get-togethers for lunch, going to the movies, dinner, the amusement park and other great places. Keep an eye out on your email and in the bulletin for more information. If you have an idea for a get together, call or email Pastor Lewis.

## LESSER FESTIVALS AND COMMEMORATIONS



Minor festivals of the Church are those days set aside for truly notable saints and events in the history of the Church. But most of us only become aware of them when the festival date falls on a Sunday—and, even then, not every congregation takes note of the occasion. July and August have four such days: July 22 honors St. Mary Magdalene; July 25 honors St. James the Elder, Apostle; August 15 honors Mary, Mother of Our Lord; and August 24 honors St. Bartholomew, Apostle. We note them, but probably will not hear more of them this year because these dates fall during the week.

There are commemorations which are urged upon the Church. These honor men and women who have contributed to the life and faith of the church, sometimes with their talents, sometimes with their lives. This year, July 12 honors Nathan Söderblom, Archbishop of Uppsala, who died July 12, 1931.

Lars Olof Jonathan (called Nathan) Söderblom, born 1866 to a priest in the Church of Sweden. After an accomplished academic and literary career, he was ordained a priest in 1893 and became a chaplain to a mental hospital. He married Anna Forsell with whom he had 13 children. For seven years he preached at the Swedish church in Paris where his congregation included Alfred Nobel, August Strindberg, diplomats, and visiting intellectuals. While in Paris, he completed his studies at the Sorbonne and became the first foreigner to receive a Doctor of Theology at the Protestant Faculty of the Sorbonne.

Söderblom was named Archbishop of Uppsala in 1914 and thus became the primate of Sweden. As such, he was instrumental in revitalizing the Church of Sweden and rebuilding and repairing its infrastructure. He built on his experiences in Paris and elsewhere to promote Christian Unity becoming an architect of the ecumenical movement and forging bonds between the Church of Sweden and the Church of England. “The Stockholm Conference in 1925, which brought together Anglican, Protestant, and Orthodox Christians, was the culminating event in Söderblom's ecumenical efforts. Rome was not represented and in his opening address, Söderblom regretted the absence of the ‘Apostle Peter’.” For his efforts, Söderblom was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1930.

[This brief biographical sketch of Söderblom is based upon the biography published in *Nobel Lectures, Peace 1926-1950*, Editor Frederick W. Haberman, Elsevier Publishing Company, Amsterdam, 1972.]

Summer is the season of ripening fruit and grain, heat, humidity, pesky bugs of one sort or another, vacations, and the time of realization that the year is half gone. How can it be? It seems only yesterday that shoveling snow or scraping the frost from the windshield was the task of the day. So, once again, nature has conspired to remind us that life is a continuing cycle, the seasons follow in their courses and so do the events which we recognize as part of our cyclic response. We shouldn't rail against them, but relish their reappearance as evidence that Robert Browning wasn't too far off when he remarked that God's in His heaven and all's right with the world. Now, would you pass the sun screen and the bug repellent?



One of the joys of youth that comes to mind was the freedom of summer: No School. In theory, that seemed to mean endless days of fun and play. And there were days when just lying in the grass and watching the cloud shapes go by was part of life. But, it seems that there were chores that were assigned, too. Do kids of today know the tedium of picking beetles off endless rows of potato plants or the pain in the small of the back that comes from thinning equally endless rows of sugar beets (to say nothing of the painful sunburn that could develop on your back where your shirt would pull out of your pants)? It was always a shock to see ads for “Back to School” sales in early August, but there was also a secret thrill of anticipation about what surprises would come with the new school year in September.



The Fourth of July is a great national holiday. It marks the day we've adopted as our nation's birthday and is celebrated with picnics, parades in some places, and fireworks. It once was also the time of oratory. Great patriotic addresses have been given at celebrations of the Fourth, I suppose, but most of them probably were fairly local flights of patriotic fervor. We don't hear purely patriotic speeches much anymore, they are generally more political in nature supporting this or that side of some controversial argument. For that matter, we don't hear recitations of the Declaration of Independence much either. Jefferson, Franklin, and Adams produced some of the most stirring phrases in our civil history. We should hear them again.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.

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**JULY/AUGUST, 2009**

